



PEARL HARBOR NAVAL SHIPYARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 2, 2010

Pearl Harbor Shipyard Wins Navy Awards for Outstanding Community Service

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PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii – Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard won two awards Jan. 13 from Commander, Navy Region Hawaii for outstanding community service from the period of July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009.

“Your command’s outstanding participation in volunteer community service projects made a difference by assisting our youth to become responsible citizens,” said Rear Adm. Dixon Smith, commander of Navy Region Hawaii, in a congratulatory letter.

The Shipyard was selected as the large shore command winner in two separate categories for the Navy Region Hawaii community service award program – Personal Excellence Partnership and Health, Safety, and Fitness. Military and civilian personnel volunteered their time to mentor and encourage Hawaii’s youth to become better educated, healthier, and more responsible citizens.

The Chief of Naval Operations also recently recognized the Shipyard with the announcement of the winners in the Navy Community Service Awards program. In the Personal Excellence Partnership (PEP) category for a large shore command, the Shipyard received an honorable mention.

“I’m proud of everything that Shipyard employees have done to give back to the community,” said Shipyard Commander Capt. Gregory Thomas. “The philosophy of the command is to give our personal and professional best every day, both inside and outside of work. It is an honor to be recognized for our volunteer work at these levels.”

The Shipyard’s nearly 4,800 civilian and military employees volunteer thousands of hours each year in the local community. Through various command-sponsored community service programs, the Shipyard supported more than 5,000 students in Hawaii over the past year.

“As a command, we believe we should share our training and expertise to enhance the development and education of Hawaii’s youth,” said Thomas. “The talent these students have is obvious. It’s important that we help them realize their true potential.”

Through the Joint Venture Education Forum, the Shipyard maintains partnership programs with four local schools – James Campbell High, Aliamanu Middle, Manana Elementary, and St. August Ahrens Elementary.

“It is definitely a privilege to be recognized as being among the top commands in terms of community outreach,” said Chief Machinist’s Mate Michael Salgy, the Shipyard’s school partnership program coordinator.

Volunteers participated in campus beautification and improvement projects as well as tutoring programs and physical fitness activities. Shipyard military personnel also volunteered to serve as coaches, referees and judges for various Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps events that were held at Pearl Harbor.

In the past three years, the number of military personnel at the Shipyard has decreased approximately 35 percent – from more than 700 to about 450.

“I’m extremely happy that everyone who came out to support the schools was commended for their efforts over the past year,” said Salgy. “Because we had slightly less people involved, our volunteers worked extra hard.”

Shipyards volunteers also supported more than 200 students at seven local high and middle schools that participated in VEX and FIRST robotics competitions throughout the year. Volunteers mentored robotics teams with mechanical, structural or electrical engineering projects. They also provided some insights for robot command and control systems, and helped prepare the teams for their competitions.

The partnerships with these schools have helped some of the mentored teams to advance to higher-level competitions, including national and world championships. The Shipyard has earned public praise from city and state officials for mentoring students and contributing to the promotion of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) as vital areas of study and possibly future employment.

To emphasize the importance of sharing employees’ expertise in and enthusiasm for STEM, Shipyard leadership decided to grant time during the work week for employees who volunteered to mentor teams participating in robotics competitions.

“It definitely feels good to be recognized for all of our hard work, but it's not the real reason behind the Shipyard's continued community outreach,” said Salgy. “We do it because it is the right thing to do for the students. They represent our future and we want our future to be as bright as possible.”

The Navy's Community Service Program provides opportunities for military and civilian employees to volunteer for command-sponsored community service projects that strengthen

education, preserve the environment, provide humanitarian assistance and promote healthy lifestyles.

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard is a full-service naval shipyard and regional maintenance center for the U.S. Navy's surface ships and submarines. It is the largest industrial employer in the state of Hawaii with a combined civilian and military workforce of about 4,800. It has an operating budget of about \$687 million, of which more than \$426 million is payroll for civilian employees.

Strategically located in the mid-Pacific, the Shipyard is about a week of steam time closer to potential major regional contingencies in East Asia than other sites on the West Coast.

For more information on Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, visit

<http://www.navsea.navy.mil/shipyards/pearl/default.aspx>.